

THE

# CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR



*World*

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1798 Scenic Avenue  
Berkeley 9, California  
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DECEMBER, 1962

January Ready-for-YOUTH Resources

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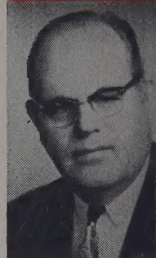




# WITH CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR IN THE BIBLE LANDS

BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY

Harold E. Westerhoff



Here is the news you have been waiting for—about the trip which many of you have been demanding. It is a special personal invitation too to you to enjoy another of Christian Endeavor's fabulous International Fellowship Tours—this time through the Bible Lands and Southern Europe. Already a number of folks are committed to go. There has been a spontaneous interest wherever the word has been mentioned.

Because you are interested in Christian Endeavor Tour Parties we want you to have first chance at this Bible Lands and Southern Europe Tour for 1963. The all-inclusive cost—\$1,400 at present published rates. The party will be

limited to the first fifty-five persons who enroll; that is the absolute maximum.

Once again we'll be using Pan-American for the major over-ocean legs. We'll be stopping off in Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, Greece, Italy, Spain, and Portugal. Where could you find a better itinerary? Visits will be made to Istanbul, Cairo, Beirut, Baalbeck, Damascus, Amman, Jerusalem (Jordan), the Dead Sea, Jericho, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jerusalem (Israel), Mount Zion, Galilee, Nazareth, Tiberias, Capernaum, Acra, Haifa, Caesarea, Tel Aviv, Athens, Corinth, Rome, Barcelona, Lisbon, and Oporto, along with scores of other sites so familiar from the Scriptures.

We plan to leave New York International Airport on August 1, arriving back at New York International Airport on September 2. While in Oporto we shall have the unique opportunity of meeting Christian Endeavorers from many parts of the world—at an Area II Conference of the World's Christian Endeavor Union.

A deposit of \$200 will reserve a place for you on this tour which promises to be the most fascinating of a long line of outstanding Christian Endeavor International Fellowship Tours. Act now to reserve your space. If you have canceled later that is possible—but save in your deposit right now.

## Special Dates for 1963

**January 27 - February 3**—Christian Endeavor Week

**February 2**—Christian Endeavor's 82nd birthday

**February 4**—Deadline for entries in the 1963 Citizenship Awards Program

**July 2-6**—47th International Christian Endeavor Convention, Washington, D.C.

**August 1 - September 2**—Fellowship Tour of the Bible Lands and Southern Europe

**For more information about these important events and dates for next year, contact the International Society of Christian Endeavor.**

## COVER CLUES

Endeavorers of Hope United Presbyterian Church, Tarrytown, New York are collecting bottles and caps to raise funds to send delegates to Washington next July.

Pictured (left to right) are Starr Spraggins, Norman Wingert, and Linda MacFadden.

Read the story on Page 5.



## THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR DECEMBER, 1962



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PART OF THE CROWD of leaders and friends who gathered at the Worthington Inn, Columbus, Ohio, on October 19 for the Recognition Dinner, sponsored by the International Society, in honor of Dr. Poling.



FORMER International Society staff members present to honor Dr. Poling were (left to right) Delno W. Brown, Carroll M. Wright, Dr. Gene Stone, Cecil A. Jeffery, and Dr. P. Marion Simms, Jr.

PICTURED WITH DR. POLING at the dinner are Mrs. Stanley B. Vandersall (left) and Mrs. P. Marion Simms. Dr. Vandersall was for many years a staff officer of both the International Society and the World's Christian Endeavor Union. Both Mrs. Vandersall and Mrs. Simms (then Edna Heyboer) are former Headquarters associates.



DR. POLING with citation presented by Bishop Clyde W. Meadows (right) on behalf of the International Society, in recognition of Dr. Poling's more than fifty years of service to the movement.

## Endeavorers Honor DANIEL A. POLING

REPRESENTING International Society presidents through the years are Dr. Poling (1925-49); Mrs. Ernest R. Bryan, whose husband served from 1949 until his death in 1954; Dr. Earle W. Gates (1955-1959); and Bishop Clyde W. Meadows, currently serving as president of both the International Society and the World's Union.





# D. C. IN '63

HERE IT IS—UP-TO-DATE NEWS ABOUT WASHINGTON 1963!

The 47th International Christian Endeavor Convention in Washington, D.C., July 2-6, will begin Tuesday afternoon, July 2, with a Prayer Vigil at 2:00, followed by the Prayer Service at 4:15 P.M. Tuesday evening the convention gets into full swing with the opening session, featuring the keynote message.

The daily schedule Wednesday through Friday includes the Quiet Hour service at 8:30, followed by conferences at 9:30 and the General Assembly at 11:30. Saturday morning begins with the Communion Service, followed by conferences and the General Assembly.

Special events will be scheduled in the afternoons, with general convention sessions featuring outstanding Christian leaders each evening. The convention banquet is Friday evening, with the Christian Witness Parade on Saturday afternoon. Saturday will be a big day for Juniors, with their special convention that morning and early afternoon.

And more good news! All convention activities will center in the Sheraton-

Park Hotel, air conditioned, with its own swimming pool. Delegates will be housed under one roof and will eat breakfast and dinner together, giving increased opportunities for fellowship.

Best of all, with the special "package plan" rate a delegate can enjoy all the convention sessions for just \$42.50 plus registration and transportation. This special rate covers five nights' lodging Tuesday through Saturday (dormitory style, four to a room), and all breakfasts and evening meals Wednesday through Saturday. Double or twin rooms, \$52.80 per person; single occupancy, \$63.10. These rates bring Washington 1963 within the reach of all.

Now is the time to register delegates and plan for car caravans, special trains and buses, etc. Registration blanks and prayer cards listing program details are available from the International Society. Write for whatever quantity you can use to good advantage.

Great plans are being made for Washington 1963. Watch for more exciting news and program details.

## Birthday Week 1963 — Youth's Opportunity!

Christian Endeavorers have a wonderful opportunity January 27 to February 3, 1963, to witness to their faith and dramatize the place and purpose of youth in the program of the church and community.

With the theme "To Fill the Emptiness" the 82nd birthday observance of the Christian Endeavor movement will emphasize evangelism.

Christian Endeavor WEEK is not just a one-day observance. When well planned, it is a full week of activities geared to bring youth to a full relationship with Christ and to focus attention upon the responsibility youth have to the church and the church to youth.

For a meaningful observance in 1963 secure the Christian Endeavor Week Packet. Costing just 50c, this includes manual, radio and television program, party plans, and a host of other items. Order from the International Society.

## Time for Citizenship Projects!

Now is the time for all Christian Endeavor societies to plan and complete a Christian citizenship project.

Every society or similar youth group in the United States and Canada is eligible to enter the 1963 Citizenship Awards Program, sponsored by the International Society of Christian Endeavor. Each group must sponsor and report a completed Christian citizenship activity begun after September 1. All entries must be postmarked by February 4.

Awards include cash, trips, plaques, and certificates. First award in each of three categories (patriotism, social reform, and community service) is \$125 plus a grant (to a maximum of \$100) for expenses of sending youth representatives to the 47th International Christian Endeavor Convention in Washington, D.C., next July. Second award in each category is \$100, third award \$50, and next three runners-up, \$25 each.

For complete details, write to Rev. Christian A. Tirre, Citizenship Director, International Society.

### ENTRY FORM (Print or type in full)

(Valid only if postmarked by Monday, February 4, 1963, and received by the International Society in Columbus, Ohio, by 12:00 o'clock noon, Friday, February 15, 1963)

Please enter the citizenship activity described in our attached materials in Christian Endeavor's Citizenship Awards Program.

(Name of society or group)

(Name of church)

(Address of church)

(Name and address of person sending entry)

(Your office or position in society or church)

Send to Citizenship Director, International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus 16, Ohio.

All entries become the property of the International Society of Christian Endeavor. All participating societies or groups agree to abide by the decisions of the judges, which are final.

## Planning an Estate?



In your estate planning, remember Christian Endeavor International in your will, that its ministry may be undergirded in the days ahead.

### A Sample Bequest:

I give and bequeath to the International Society of Christian Endeavor, Columbus, Ohio, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars.

For information write to:

Harold E. Westerhoff  
General Secretary  
International Society of  
Christian Endeavor  
1221 East Broad Street  
Columbus 16, Ohio



# NEWS AND VIEWS

CHRISTINA MACASKILL, affectionately known to many Endeavorers as "Tina," passed on October 14, after a long illness. A graduate of Gordon College, Miss MacAskill served as executive secretary of the Massachusetts Union and chairman of the Northfield Conference for a number of years. Funeral services were held at her church, the United Presbyterian Church in Newton, on October 18.

MEMBERS of the three Christian Endeavor Societies of the Cape United Presbyterian Church in Tarrytown, New York, chartered a bus this June to take members to next year's International Convention in Washington. Their advisor, Kenneth W. Ritchie, reports that members have already collected over 20,000 bottle caps and 400 redeemable bottles. Their goal is to raise enough funds to pay at least half the expenses of each delegate. Efforts will continue through next year, with a goal of over 100,000 caps and several thousand bottles. Members are also saving personal funds through the Convention Club.



ALLEN E. BURWELL, president of the California Union, is general manager of the Moorman Manufacturing Company. Active in Bethany Church, Sierra Madre, he has served as an elder, Christian Endeavor sponsor, and Sunday school superintendent. He has also been San Diego County president and a state regional vice-president. He and his wife Virginia are the parents of a son David and a daughter Carolyn.

REV. WILLARD E. THOMEN resigned November 10 as vice-president of the International Society in charge of the New England Region. He is moving to Hawaii, where he will serve as pastor of the Imiola Congregational Church in Honolulu. Mr. Thomen served churches in Hawaii from 1951 to 1956, before returning to his home state of Connecticut.



GUARDS WERE NEEDED when Philadelphia Endeavorers delivered a "mile of pennies" for state work during the Pennsylvania Convention at Wilson College, Chambersburg, this August.

● DOROTHY E. HAEUSSLER, New York State Endeavorer, met Rev. and Mrs. John Shackleford in Guatemala this summer and learned of their work with Christian Endeavor in that country, where there are more than 75 societies. Dorothy reports a great need for more missionaries there and says, "Although Roman Catholicism is supported by the state, most people practice a mixture of Christianity and idolatry. At Chichicastenangua, for the first time in my life, I saw men worshipping stone images next to a cross, burning incense to false gods on the church steps, and witch doctors praying to Christ to bless their herbs. Certainly there is a great challenge for our Christian Endeavorers and for us in Guatemala."



LEFT—North Carolina Endeavorers were hosts at a Noah's Ark Party during the Southern Regional Conference at Montreat, North Carolina, October 5-7. Alice Goodman of Richmond, Virginia, is vice-president in charge of the region. BELOW—A chalk talk given by Rev. Christian A. Tirre, educational secretary and citizenship director of the International Society, was one of the high lights of the conference.





# Ready - for - YOUTH RESOURCES

## The Smaller Ungraded Society

by Rev. Robert Hess, Californi  
field secretar

Men and women in every walk of life continue to tell how Christian Endeavor led them to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and gave them the opportunity to serve Him in the church.

A judge mentions that his country church was the place where he learned the true meaning of justice and where he caught the vision to go to school to become an honest lawyer. He learned to talk on his feet in his Christian Endeavor group of seven.

A child evangelism worker tells how she watched her sponsor illustrate the Scripture truths. She would repeat the actions because she was the smallest of the group and could do that without saying any words. Before long she was speaking and singing in their small society. Then came the call to Bible school. Today she is working in communities like her own where she was once so timid.

Many church leaders have come up through the ranks of a small Christian Endeavor society thankful that there was a Society even though it may not have been graded according to each age level.

Where the society embraces all ages from Primary to Adult, the president should be from the junior high or high school level if possible. In one instance where this was true, an adult acted as Devotional Committee chairman and Sponsor; a Junior High was Social Committee chairman; the Sponsor's wife was Secretary and Treasurer; one Junior was the pianist and another the Lookout Committee Chairman; and a Primary was Greeter and Book Chairman. Each took his turn at leading the meeting, except for the Primary youngster who assisted until old enough to lead on his own.

As far as possible there should be a chairman for each of the five committees. However, several combinations are workable. The Devotional and Missionary Committees both have responsibility for meetings. The Lookout and Social Committees both have a common concern for the welfare of members through Christian growth and fellowship. The Church Activity and Missionary Committees both have a vision of helpfulness at home and abroad.

If there are more than eight or ten in any society it would seem wise to divide it as closely as possible into age groups with a lesser age span. There have been combinations of,

Primary-Junior High; Junior-Junior High; Junior High-Young People; Junior-Adult. Some call them Children's societies to age 13, and Youth societies—teen-age and above.

In almost every church, because some youngsters are large for their age, or because of the close companionship of boys or girls, it may be wise to overlap some ages.

It must be kept in mind that there should not only be the weekly devotional meeting, but there should also be regular planning and business sessions. These are important to the growth of the society. One society was known to have combination business and social meeting once a month; another had its business meeting the same night as Sunday school leaders and the whole family came for business meetings after a pot-luck fellowship supper.

When young people in a small society promise that they will strive to do whatever Christ would have them do, they are given more opportunities more often to express themselves and therefore to grow in leadership ability.

A Sponsor told how the eleven members of her mixed society eagerly took their turns leading a meeting once a quarter. No matter how difficult the part might be in the program they were willing to do whatever they were asked to do. It was discovered from records which she kept, that no youngster participated less than twice in any meeting through the various elements such as: prayer, Scripture reading, music, discussion, answering questions, giving comments, and ushering. It is no wonder that the pastor is glad to call on these Christian Endeavorers for many opportunities in the church, and the Sunday school superintendent knows that he can count on them for visitation, publicity, and assistance in teaching.

Christian Endeavor has been called a laboratory for expression. A smaller society may be even more effective in training leaders than a larger one where the more timid and less resourceful are not discovered and their talents developed for Christ.

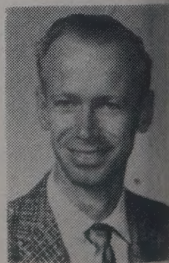
Let us not think that we need a nucleus of at least twenty before we can organize a Christian Endeavor society. A handful of young people of assorted ages may be waiting for an opportunity to learn of Christ and to serve Him. Will you help them?



Mrs. Paul J. Kovar

Mrs. Paul J. Kovar, counselor of the Senior Society of Christian Endeavor of Paul's Union Church, La Marque, Texas, is a new writer of Senior High-Young People's topic comments. Her first material appeared in the November issue. She has served in various state and district advisory offices and is presently adult advisor of the Galveston County Union and the San Jacinto District paper, and departmental director for membership of the Texas Union. She is married and the mother of two teen-age girls.

Charles C. Meek, president of the Texas Christian Endeavor Union, is a new writer of Senior High-Young People's topic comments. His first material appears in this issue. He lives in Arcadia and teaches English at the Santa Fe High School, Alta Loma. He is a member of the Board of Deacons and Elders and superintendent of Christian Endeavor societies of the Arcadia Christian Church. He has degrees in education from Texas Christian University and the University of Houston. He is married and has a teen-age daughter.



Charles C. Meek



# Topics

## FOR JUNIOR HIGHS

Topic 1 in a Unit: Worshiping through Prayer and Bible Study

# "Lord, Teach Us to Pray"

Luke 11:1-4

## Suggested Program

-Prayer Service  
g Service:  
*Now I Belong to Jesus*  
*Trust and Obey*  
*Only Believe*  
election from Group  
ening Prayer  
apture: Luke 11:1-13. (May be read  
esponsively)  
l Call: (Endeavorers may answer  
with a verse of Scripture on prayer,  
r a verse of a prayer hymn)  
elcome to Visitors, Announcements,  
nd Offering  
cial Music: *When I Kneel Down to*  
*Pray* (or another appropriate selec-  
ion)  
der's Introduction and Dialogue  
paration for Prayer:  
everence  
aith  
ur Lord's Pattern  
z Groups  
up Reports  
nselor's Talk  
g: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*  
ndship Circle and Benediction

## the Leader

his program will only be as meaningful  
hose attending as the subject is to your  
heart. Do you sense the value and  
ity of prayer? Has prayer meant very  
h in your own life? Make the informa-  
set forth in the topic a part of your  
thinking first, then you will have little  
ble giving it to others.

he dialogue should be carried out before  
r introduction. Choose two young people  
o can put the message across forcefully.  
vide pencil and paper for each buzz  
up, and emphasize to each leader that  
group is to discuss the verses given,  
to also have further discussion. Be-  
se of the length of the talks, punctuality  
pep are very important.

order Quiet Hour pamphlets from Inter-  
onal Christian Endeavor, 1221 East  
ad Street, Columbus 16, Ohio, or from  
r state or provincial union. Have enough  
a table near the front for each person  
ave one.

his first program of the new year should  
publicized highly. Invite those in Sun-  
school who are not members of your

society, as well as friends from school. Use  
your own initiative in planning publicity, but  
above all, be sure that the program runs  
smoothly and presents a challenge to all  
who attend.

## For the Counselor

Your youth will have been given instruc-  
tion concerning prayer and will have dis-  
cussed certain problems dealing with it  
during this topic presentation. A closing word  
from you would be appropriate.

Tell them what prayer has meant in your  
own life, encouraging them to consider  
definitely the place it should have in their  
own lives. Try to tie in the dialogue be-  
tween Bill and Jim at the beginning of the  
program. Having devotions was the prepara-  
tion, as well as the means, by which Bill  
could witness to others. Be sure to have  
quiet Hour pamphlets available for each one  
attending.

This first program of the new year should  
bear positive results in the lives of your  
youth. Pray for them.

## Dialogue

*This conversation takes place in a  
junior high cafeteria. Bill, a fourteen-  
year-old Christian, seats himself in the  
cafeteria and quietly bows his head in  
thanksgiving. Jim, the class clown, el-  
bows him in the ribs and says with a  
sneer, "Shouldn't have stayed up so late  
last night, sleepyhead." Going along  
with his joking, Bill replies, "It's just  
that I got up early."*

"You mean 7:30 in time for the bus?"

"No, 6:30 in time for devotions."

"Devotions! Bible readin' and prayin'.  
Now what do you pray at that hour of  
the day for?"

"For you."

*Recovering himself, Jim stammered,*  
"Well, you can quit praying; I don't  
believe there is a God!"

"But there is a God, Jim, and I know  
Him. He is the Creator of the Universe,  
and the Saviour of our souls. I talk with  
Him because I know Him. Jim, do you  
know Him?"

## Leader's Introduction

Because Bill had prayed that morn-  
ing he was prepared to witness to his



classmate. His relationship to our Lord  
meant a great deal to him, more than it  
does to many of us. He believed Christ  
when He said, "Verily, verily I say unto  
you, He that believeth on me, the works  
that I do shall he do also; and greater  
works shall he do; because I go unto My  
Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in  
my name, that will I do, that the Father  
may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall  
ask anything in My name, I will do it"  
(John 14:12-14).

It is most important to note that  
throughout all of Christ's ministry He  
gives more emphasis to the power and  
certainty of prayer than to any other  
thing. He taught prayer by His words  
and His example. (Read Mark 1:35 and  
38.) When we see that Christ, the only  
perfect Man, placed such importance  
upon prayer, we see the reason for our  
own ineffective lives. In spite of Christ's  
challenge to live in constant communion  
with His Father, the Christian Church  
of today is facing problems that seem to  
overwhelm us. Communism controls a  
large portion of the world's population,  
and sadder to relate, Christianity seems  
to be losing ground. We keep searching  
for better methods and means of com-  
bating problems, but God has already  
supplied the help—through prayer.  
While men are busy searching for bet-  
ter methods, God is looking for better  
men. The purpose of our program to-  
night is to investigate our Lord's com-  
mand concerning prayer, so that each of  
us may have a greater desire to pray  
and work with Him.

## Preparation for Prayer

We are told that Christ spent much  
time in prayer, especially in private  
prayer. Many times He left His disciples

(Continued on Next Page)



(Continued from Previous Page)

in order to speak to His Father alone (for an example of this see Luke 6:12).

What are the most important things a Christian should have in prayer? Probably the two most important factors are reverence and faith.

### Reverence

Webster defines reverence as: *profound respect mingled with love and awe*. This profound respect involves a quiet heart and mind, complete humility, and patience. (*List these on the chalkboard or a poster board*). God alone is worthy of our reverence, and when we face Him in His holiness, we see our own sinfulness. Patience and quietness are necessary for Him to speak to us. (*Have several from the group look up these verses: James 4:10; Lamentations 3:25,26; Psalm 46:10.*)

Meditation is a good way to begin praying. Remember Who He is. We should wait until we really feel His presence. Of course, we know that God is everywhere, but many times our sense of His nearness is dimmed by busy, selfish, thoughts. Read a few verses of Scripture over in your mind until you actually know He is listening.

### Faith

What is faith? Webster says *complete confidence*, but Christ has given us a better definition in Hebrews 11:1. (*Read or quote this.*) Christ had absolute trust in His Father, as we can see from the miracles He performed. We, as Christian young people, should imitate His faith in every area of our lives. Does God really hear us? Do we really believe He listens to our every plea? We call Him Father, but do we treat Him as a heavenly Father? To not talk to Him about our needs and desires is as disrespectful as not talking to our earthly father. (*Read Matthew 7:9-11.*) If our minds ever doubt the reality of prayer, we need only turn in our Bibles and be reminded that our Lord spent much time in prayer at every crisis of His life. Surely we will not be misled if we follow His steps!

### Our Lord's Pattern

The disciples wished a special formula for prayer, such as John the Baptist seems to have given his disciples. Christ replied with His matchless pattern and then guaranteed them that it would be heard. *The Lord's Prayer* is given in more detail in Matthew, and is a type that should mold all our prayer.

It begins with the words *Our Father*, showing our relationship to God. It con-

tains five petitions. Two of these relate to the cause of God in the world, and three to personal needs. The first two request that God's name will be honored (revered, exalted) on earth, as it is by the angels in heaven, and also for the coming of His Kingdom.

The next petition, *our daily bread* implies our right to pray for our physical welfare. We are also taught to pray for forgiveness, as we forgive others, and lastly, to ask for protection from Satan's temptations.

All these areas are important and the order is especially important: our own requests should be last.

### Buzz Group 1

What should we pray for? The Bible gives us many answers to this question. Following are some verses to use. Write down some appropriate prayer requests from these verses and from discussion within your group. Matthew 6:33; Job 42:8; Matthew 5:44, 9:38, 26:41; II Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 122:6; James 1:5, 5:15,16; Acts 8:22; Romans 10:1; Philippians 4:6, 1:9; and I Thessalonians 5:25.

### Buzz Group 2

How should we pray? The Bible is very explicit in telling us how to pray. It is good to remember that Christ is at the right hand of God, helping us when we pray. The following verses help in answering the question. Write down the ways we should pray from the verses and from further discussion within the group. Hebrews 7:25 and 8:1; James 5:16b; Romans 8:26; Ephesians 5:20; Mark 1:35 and 11:24,25; Matthew 6:6; and I Corinthians 14:15.

### Buzz Group 3

If God knows my needs, why pray? Read Matthew 6:8. Prayer is the way God has planned for us to receive certain things He has promised. He loves His children and wants to have fellowship with them. The following verses will help to answer the question. Write down the reasons as they are given in the references.

In addition to Christ's command to pray, we see that prayer is a means of having fellowship with God and a means of building up our spiritual life. If we did not pray would we really appreciate His gifts? Would we realize our dependence on Him? Also, if we did not pray about problems, is there much chance that we would ever do anything about them? Look at I Thessalonians 5:17; Job 42:8; Jude 20; II Corinthians 3:18;

I John 1:3; John 14:13, 16:24; and Philippians 4:6,7.

### Buzz Group 4

What are some of the errors often found in prayer? What particular thing do we as Christian young people hear public prayer that we do not like?

Read the following verses and write down the errors listed. Then discuss further and list everyday, common problems. Matthew 6:5,7; Luke 20:46,47; Corinthians 14:15. When we hear someone pray who we know does not live a Christ-like life, what do we think? What does Christ think about insincerity? Does prayer reflect one's attitude toward God? What should be our attitude toward Him?

### Buzz Group 5

What is the best time to set aside for personal prayer? In discussing this question take into consideration your daily time schedules. Is it best to set aside time for your Quiet Hour in the morning or evening? Discuss and write down advantages and disadvantages of both. Psalm 55:17; Daniel 6:10; Acts 6:13; Psalm 5:3; Psalm 88:13; Luke 6:12; Timothy 5:5; and I Thessalonians 5:17. Should we pray for each task, no matter how small? Is it right to pray before test? Philippians 4:6. It is necessary to use the pronouns *thee, thou*?

### Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 31	A Prayer Pattern	Matthew 6:5-
T. Jan. 1	Prayer Conditions	II Chronicles 7:12-
W. Jan. 2	A Good Habit	Daniel 6:10-
T. Jan. 3	The Need for Prayer	Acts 1:14-
F. Jan. 4	The Church Prays	Acts 12:1-
S. Jan. 5	A Thanksgiving Prayer	Ephesians 3:14-
Sun. Jan. 6—Topic:	"Lord, Teach Us to Pray"	Luke 11:1-

Comments by Glorya McDonald of LaMarque, Texas, student at Moody Bible Institute

Hymns listed in program outlines in THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD have been selected from CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR SONGS. This book, with an attractive red and white paper cover, contains 113 songs and hymns for youth meetings. Available from International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus 16, Ohio. Price: 50¢ each, \$5 per dozen, \$40 per hundred.



Topic 2 in a Unit: Worshiping through Prayer and Bible Study

# Why Do I Pray?

Ezra 9:5-10:1



## Suggested Program

Prayer Service  
All to Worship: Psalm 121  
Intercession Prayers: (Encourage each person to pray.)  
Hymn: *All Hail the power of Jesus' Name*  
Scripture Reading: Ezra 9:5, 10:1  
Hymn: *The Beautiful Garden of Prayer*  
Leader's Introduction  
Bible Talk  
Questions for Discussion  
Counselor's Challenge  
Announcements and Offering  
Benediction

## Publicity and Promotion

Some products are skillfully advertised. They are well known because of the fact. Promote your meeting and prayer by using your imagination. Use your Devotional Committee meeting to discuss things you can use to attract attention and promote your program. With your advertising should be added the time and place of your meeting. Posters should be made by hand and put in conspicuous places in your church and community.

## For the Leader

The person leading a meeting can make it good or he can be the cause of failure. The leader each week should carefully consider the materials to be studied. He should plan the introduction well. This is the key to getting the interest of the group.

The leader this week might consider these things:

1. Why some people are embarrassed about the idea of prayer.
2. Why all Christian people are expected to pray.
3. The value of praying in public.
4. A short review of last week's topic as a means of introducing this topic.

## Leader's Talk

There are many kinds of prayer. Some of them are listed in the daily Bible readings for the past week. By these Scriptures we know how and why people prayed. Since the Bible is given to us as an example, we should follow the pattern of prayer which the

men of old followed. By studying their prayers we can see how and why we should pray today. Many of the Bible people accomplished great things for God. They worked with and for God. When we follow their example we can expect to do great things for Him.

Prayer should not be something we do just because others are doing it. It should not be something we do without thought or pattern. We should study our prayer life. We should plan our prayers. If we ramble around in our prayers we cannot expect God to answer in a pattern for good. He created an organized universe. All things in His creation fit and work together. We should not expect His relationship with us to be different from the rest of His creation.

Let's look at the kinds of prayer in our daily Bible readings and talk about each one separately.

### Prayer for Personal Needs

This is a much misused prayer. We often ask God for things which do not fit into our life. We ask things which He cannot do. We ask things which would not fit into His over-all program. In our desire to prosper and to meet social standards, personal things often become more important than spiritual things. This should not be! Needs are one thing. Desires are still another. The Bible says, "... for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him." This does not mean that we should not turn to God with personal things. It means rather that to ask for foolish things will only bother God and will not help the individual. We should consider our needs and ask only for those things which are important to our spiritual welfare.

### Prayer for Others

There are many reasons why we should pray for others: some do not pray for themselves; some have no

knowledge of God; some do not have freedoms which we enjoy. United prayer gives strength to the work of God. I'm sure each member of the society could think of someone who needs our prayers.

The Scripture reading for Monday, January 7, (Exodus 32:30-35) tells about Moses' prayer for others. God was unhappy with the people. They had sinned against Him. If it had not been for the prayer of Moses they would have been blotted from the earth. This is just one Biblical example of the value of prayer for others. In this case it saved a nation. It made possible the great kingdom of David which followed many years later. It made possible the coming of Christ as a descendant of this group of people. It made possible the great and glorious plan of salvation which God has given us. For all of God's creation this prayer of Moses was very important. My, what power existed in this prayer!

### Prayer for Strength

Man was created in the image and likeness of God! He was created, however, with the power to choose between right and wrong. Man chose to do wrong. This brought sin into the human race. Sin can be overcome only through Christ.

God wants man to have strength. He wants to give us the things which will make life better. We must, however, follow the example of Jesus. The Scripture reading for Friday, January 11, (John 17) tells about our living example. The entire chapter of John 17 is devoted to the prayer of Jesus when He needed strength for the trying task ahead of Him. If Jesus, the Son of God, prayed for strength surely we must see our need. Surely we as weak individuals

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must turn to the source of all strength and power in the earth. We must turn to God.

### Prayer of Praise

This is a much neglected part of the Christian life. Too few people give praise to God for His goodness and mercy. We tend to forget that God has done so much for us. Too often we take credit ourselves for things which come from the hand of God.

It would be impossible to list all of the things which come from God. We might stop, however, and think of some of them. We should, of course, begin with our salvation. Christ died for us when we were not worthy of His love. God sent His Son into the world and the world rejected Him. Still God loved His highest creation. He continues to plead with man through the Holy Spirit. This will tell us something about the nature and love of God. Do we ever stop to offer a prayer of gratitude for all His mercy and goodness to us?

We might stop long enough to praise God for freedom. Our nations are yet free of the yoke of bondage. We are able to worship as we choose. We can yet speak and write the things which we believe to be right. Jesus taught freedom while He lived on the earth. For this we should give praise to God.

### Pray Before Undertakings

The Bible teaches that we should pray without ceasing. We should ever be mindful of God and our relationship to Him. We should have an open mind and be ready at all times to call upon God and listen to His message to us.

There are some specific times, however, when we should be even more constant in prayer. There are times in our life when we need definite guidance from God. Let's study these and plan our life to fit into God's pattern for our service and ministry in His kingdom.

Too often we wait until trouble becomes a part of our life before we think about God. We wait until we have a crisis before we turn to Him in prayer. This should not be. We should turn to Him before a specific need arises.

### When to Pray

In the Scripture reading for Wednesday, January 9, (Luke 6:12-16) we read about a prayer of Jesus. He was about to choose helpers for His work on earth. He had to make decisions here which would influence a great part of His ministry on earth. It was only natural that He would turn to God before making such profound decisions.

If Jesus needed the help of God at such a time certainly we need to turn to Him in matters which affect our life. We could not argue that most of the apostles were great men for the work which they were called to. Jesus did make good decisions in this matter. He is our example and we should follow the pattern which He established for us. In this way we can be certain that the decisions we make are the right ones.

### Pray Before Making Decisions

This is the title of the daily Bible reading for Thursday, January 10 (Acts 13:1-3). The church at Antioch prayed before sending Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey. They knew the importance of this venture. On the work of missions hinged the spread of the New Testament Church. This was a great undertaking. God answered the prayers of the Antioch church. The mission was a success. Many people believed. Churches were organized. The kingdom of God was spread to other parts of the world.

Many times the success or failure of an individual life also hinges upon a person's relationship with God. Many great men have said that their success was due to the fact that they took God as a partner. They depended upon God and God answered their prayers.

### Prayer Overcomes Fear

This is true in many instances. It is true in the realm of belief in Christ and acceptance of Him. It is true in a different sense in the following story.

Before the day of hotels and motels travelers often asked for a night's lodging in private homes. One night two ragged, bearded individuals stopped at a house by the side of the road. They asked if they might spend the night. The owner of the house, not wanting to seem rude, invited them in. When it came time to retire for the night the owner and his wife went into their own bedroom while the visitors went into the guest room. Since this was also before the time of locks in private homes the owner and his wife, fearing the strangers, decided that one would stay awake the first part of the night and the other would stand guard through the morning hours. Soon the fearful couple heard a noise in the guest room. They listened! What did they hear? The bearded strangers were praying. They asked God's blessing on the couple who had been kind enough to give a night's lodging. Fears were forgotten. Four people slept that night, secure in the knowledge that all was well. God would watch while all slept.

## Questions for Discussion

1. At what age should young people first attempt to lead in public prayer?
2. When should young people begin wording their own prayers instead of using prayers which they memorized as small children?
3. What could we accomplish if all Christians would use the power which can be found in prayer?
4. How can we train ourselves to form the habit of praying daily?
5. Why do people fail in prayer?

## Counselor's Challenge

The counselor should conclude the topic and challenge the members to use the things which have been learned in this study. I might put special emphasis on points which the young people bring out in their discussion. The challenge should include things of specific nature which will refer to the local situation and to individual social member's problems.

Keep Christ as the central theme in the prayer life of the individuals. They should not only talk with Him but they should have a quiet time of meditation where they allow God to speak to them. Prayer is a two-way circuit. Point out that God speaks in many ways. He may talk with us through His Holy Spirit. He may speak to us through the Bible. He may reveal Himself to us through the life of some other person. Young people should be aware of the things so they will know and understand when God speaks. Also, it might be pointed out that no definite answer from God may mean that the answer to some prayer is No.

## Follow-up

It is always well to know how we have succeeded in our meetings. For the next several weeks the sponsor or counselor might check this regarding these two topics of prayer. If the topics seem to have been understood we might find security in this knowledge. If there still seems to be a problem regarding the prayer life of the individuals in this group we might re-emphasize the topic in another such study or we might find other ways to put emphasis on the needs of youth in regard to their prayer life.

## Daily Bible Readings

- M. Jan. 7 Intercession for Others Exodus 32:30-33  
T. Jan. 8 A Personal Need I Samuel 1:9-10  
W. Jan. 9 Before Great Decisions Luke 6:12-13  
T. Jan. 10 Before Undertakings Acts 13:1-3  
F. Jan. 11 Praying for Strength John 11:1-10  
S. Jan. 12 A Farewell Prayer Acts 20:36-38  
Sun. Jan. 13—Topic: Why Do I Pray? Ezra 9:5-10:1

Comments by Rev. Clive Cooper, pastor of the General Baptist Church in Atchison, Kansas



Topic 3 in a Unit: Worshiping through Prayer and Bible Study

# Studies that Strengthen

Psalm 104



## Suggested Program

Prayer Service  
Include

all to Worship: Psalm 119:89,90  
Silent Meditation

Prayer: (Have several offer sentence  
prayers expressing thanks for the  
Bible.)

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 104

Boy—verses 1-9

Girl—verses 10-18

Girl—verses 19-30

Boy—verses 31-35

Hymn: *Break Thou the Bread of Life*

Memory Assignments: (Daily readings  
which have been memorized by the  
members from earlier assignment.)

Topic Discussion

What Would You Do?

Offering and Announcements

Hymn: *Trusting Jesus*

Benediction

## Our Aims

1. To help the Junior High member to better appreciate God's Word and have a real desire to read it.
2. Attempt to show the Junior High member that the Bible is a Living Book and a real source of strength.
3. Check on enlistment or re-enlistment in the Quiet Hour enrollment. This should be a follow-up of the January 6 meeting.

Posters or other printed announcements of the meeting could be decorated with small Bible stickers. These stickers can be purchased at almost any Bible book store or gift shop.

Make sure an announcement of your meeting is in the church bulletin. You may also desire to have an item in your local newspaper announcing the service. Use every means of publicity possible.

## Worship Center Suggestion

At the entrance of the meeting room have a large banner made by some member of the Publicity Committee which reads, *The Book That Strengthens*. Have on display, below the banner, a number of Bibles of various sizes and translations. If someone can furnish an appropriate size rock or stone that the Bible display can be ribboned to, this can emphasize the idea of strength, endurance, and security.

## Leader's Introduction

We did not always have the Bible in its present form. The Scriptures which Jesus referred to were Hebrew characters written on scrolls of perhaps leather or papyrus. Papyrus, the forerunner of our present day paper, was made from reeds which grew in marshes two or three inches in diameter and from ten to fifteen feet high. This weed was sliced and placed crossways in alternate layers, moistened and pressed, and made into sheets or rolls about a foot wide and one to ten feet long. A type of ink was used even at this early date. The Scriptures which Jesus referred to are what we now call the Old Testament. They had been translated into Greek and were used in His day. He always referred to them as the Word of God.

Years later, as the writings of the apostles appeared they were added to these early writings of the Scripture.

Printing as we know it today was unknown then. Copies of these early writings had to be made by hand so it was a very slow and laborious task for many people to have even a copy of one of the letters of Paul or other portions of the Scriptures. Many of these early writings had to be worked on in secret and kept in hideouts because of persecutions to the early Christians.

However, it seems that God in His all-wise providence kept His hand upon these sacred Words and through God fearing men preserved for us His Holy Word.

The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament written in Greek.

In the 15th Century the invention of printing with moveable type by Johann Gutenberg made possible the production of Bibles which were cheaper. This new means of making available Bibles greatly promoted their circulation. A copy of Gutenberg's Bible is in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., for which the sum of \$350,000 was paid. Do not fail to see this Bible when you attend the 47th International Christian Endeavor Convention in Washington this summer.

When the Protestant Reformation came a new and greater interest was manifested in the Bible. Today the Holy Bible is translated into more than 1,100 languages and dialects. Many brave men and women have worked on these translations so that mankind might better understand God's Word. Not many of us would be able to understand the Hebrew and Greek languages in which it was first written. Many of the translators and printers were imprisoned or persecuted and sometimes their work was destroyed but through it all God has preserved His wonderful Word for

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## Planning the Meeting

The responsibility of this meeting may be placed with the Devotional Committee. They may choose one of their own members as leader.

The meeting should have adequate preparation and publicity especially if the Daily Readings are used as memory selections by the members. The Devotional Committee a few weeks in advance (no later than January 6) should make inquiry among the members as to which Daily Reading they might like to memorize.

Judges should be on hand to determine who makes the best presentation in their memory work. Make this memory work a time of real inspiration and benefit to those who participate. Small awards may be offered to all who participate with a top award for the best work.

Your pastor and the president of the adult society might be glad to work with you in such a project and use the top winner, or winners, to give their memorized selections on one, or both, of the Sundays of Christian Endeavor Week.

Remember good Christian Endeavor meetings do not just happen! Give adequate preparation to this important topic and its presentation.

## Publicity

Picture on a poster a large rock with the Bible anchored in it. The topic title, with time and place, may be printed below. Remember to also include the date.



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us and we ought to treasure it more and more in our hearts and lives. In some lands today people continue to suffer much to even be able to secure a copy of this precious Book.

Junior Highs should memorize many of its beautiful selections. If we treasure these inspiring selections in our memory they can never be taken from us. Too, when the storms of life come upon us we can find real strength and help from the portions that we have memorized.

## Topic Comments

Every Christian needs strength. One definition of strength is *the inherent capacity to manifest energy, to endure, and to resist*. God's Word will help us to have spiritual energy, to endure hardship and to resist temptation.

A child must eat the right kind of food, get his rest and proper exercise, in order to have a strong growing healthy body. Often we are so concerned about our physical growth and strength that we forget to grow spiritually.

We should not fail to pray, read God's Word, and assemble ourselves together in the House of the Lord, in order to grow strong in Him. Christian Endeavor conventions, rallies, retreats, and even our regular meetings, are a good place to receive strength as God's Word is studied in a special way. Just as an unhealthy child cannot live a very normal life, so an unhealthy or weak Christian has a difficult time meeting life's situations and problems.

From the Scripture lesson let us find some portions that will strengthen us and help us to endure the storms of life and resist the temptations that come upon us.

Psalms 104 shows us that God is great and wonderful in all ways. Even in creation He accounted for every little detail. The song writer, Sir Robert Grant, expressed in the hymn, *O, Worship the King*, some of the strength found in our Scripture lesson. He wrote, *O tell of His might, and sing of His grace, Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space; His chariots of wrath the deep thunder-clouds form, And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.*

Sometimes a Junior High may become greatly frightened, when a storm comes upon his area. Sometimes he may be caught away from home. Perhaps he can find new strength in remembering the clouds are His chariot and He walks on

the wings of the wind. He might be a real help and strength to a smaller brother or sister by being strong in knowing God's Word and God's care. This too can be applied to the storms that come to every life. One must realize that to every life come storms, trials, hardships, and discouragements, but these will subside at His command if a person will trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and His abiding Word.

Verses from this Psalm also show that God sends rain and food for the animals and brings forth vegetation upon the earth. In fact, He cares for all creation in such a marvelous way, whether on land or sea, that surely He will care for mankind if they but trust in Him. It is good to know that "The glory of the Lord shall endure forever" (Psalm 104:31a).

One should never forget that "In all things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us" (Romans 8:37). Junior Highs can be conquerors over many of the evils of life by trusting in the Lord and by seeking strength through His Word.

## What Would You Do?

Jane Smith, a lovely 14 year old, has recently become a Christian. Her parents are not Christians. The minister gave Jane a Bible for there wasn't a copy in her home. Now when Jane wants to read it her mother always has some special task or work for her to do. Her father makes fun of her for desiring to read such an uninteresting book, as he calls it.

What would you do if you were in Jane's place? What suggestions can you give to Jane that will be of help and strength to her as a new Christian?

Dick Jones is engaged in so many school activities and events that he says he does not have time to read his Bible. He used to read it regularly when he was a Junior Endeavorer but now that he is older he has let other things come into his life. He would like to re-establish his Bible reading.

What would you do if you were Dick and had this desire? What suggestions can you give to Dick that might be of help to him?

## Projects

Here are a couple of projects which your entire society might like to participate in.

1. Sometimes aged or shut-in people find it impossible to leave their homes during these winter days. Arrange with your counselor and check with some of these folks to see if they would like to have a delegation from your Junior High society come and read to them

## Questions for Discussion

1. Why do you read the Bible?

2. Would you get along just as well as a Christian if you did not read your Bible?

3. List some of the hindrances which Junior Highs meet when they desire to read their Bible.

4. Give some instances when Bible reading has been a real strength and help to you.

5. Make a list of interesting ways to read the Bible.

their favorite Bible passages, and to get items from the market. If your society is large enough, delegate several groups in this project and thus make many more contacts rather than all going to one place.

Such a service will strengthen your society members and it can be a real blessing to those who are anxious to hear but cannot see clearly anymore to read God's Word.

If you can do this before your meeting time you might like to list on the chalkboard the favorite selections of these folks and tell why they are their favorites.

2. If your church has some older people who have been a blessing to you perhaps you can invite them to be your guests and let them tell you how some portions of Scripture have been a strength and help.

Your church might have a veteran who could tell you how God's Word has helped him in a time of trouble.

## Daily Bible Readings

M. Jan. 14	The Shepherd	Psalms	Psalms 23
T. Jan. 15	Teach Me, Lord	Psalms	119:33-40
W. Jan. 16	The Love Chapter	I Corinthians	13:1-13
T. Jan. 17	Mary's Great Song	Luke	1:46-55
F. Jan. 18	The Blessed Ones	Matthew	5:1-12
S. Jan. 19	Spiritual Victory	Romans	8:31-39
Sun. Jan. 20	Topic: Studies That Strengthen Psalms 104		

Comments by Miss Wanda M. Sell of Rockford, Ohio, General Treasurer and Office Secretary of the General Board of Administration of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WORLD



Topic 1 in a Unit: Christian Endeavor Week

# To Fill the Emptiness

Matthew 12:43,44; Revelation 3:20

(Denominational Day—Beginning Christian Endeavor Week)

## Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service  
Hymn: *Christ Is the Answer*  
Hymn: *He keeps Me Singing*  
In the Service of the King  
Scripture Lesson: Matthew 12:43-45  
Topic Presentation: Let's Be Artists  
Service of Consecration  
Hymn: *I Am Thine, O Lord*  
Scripture: Psalm 51:10,15  
Prayer Time  
Prayer: *I Surrender All*  
Brief challenge by counselor or pastor  
Hymn of Consecration: *With Thy Spirit Fill Me*  
Benediction

## For the Leader and Counselor

Plan your presentation of the topic so that you (or someone you choose to lead) use the artist who is teaching young artists (your helpers) how to draw. The main artist gives a brief talk on how uninteresting an empty life can be without Christ, comparing it to the blank paper on the wall. He points out that the first step in filling the emptiness is to have a beginning point—in life it is the acceptance of Christ as Saviour—on the blank paper it will be the focal point of the picture which he shows his students (the other members of the society) and which he colors in as a demonstration.

Then the leader calls on each one of the young artists to add something to what he has done. Be sure the picture does not become anti-climactic, but unfolds gradually as each one colors a different area so as not to reveal the total picture too soon. Each student artist speaks briefly on how Christ has helped fill the emptiness in some area of his life. (Some may speak in the area of loneliness, by being a Friend and providing Christian friends; the area of service, by being an example and providing jobs to be done.) Use as many areas as you have people participating. Each should make for a good meeting and add to the picture. Each person should be ready with his talk by practice time so you can time the meeting.

## Our Aims

1. To realize that without Christ in each individual life there is complete spiritual emptiness.
2. That the young people of today who find the most meaning to life are those who have added Christ to their lives.
3. That life has many areas in which emptiness can be found, but Christ has the answer to fill each area.
4. That intellectual consent to Christ as the Son of God is not enough. He must come into our hearts and reign supreme.

Only youth who belong to Christ should be used as speakers because they are the only ones who know how Christ can fill the emptiness!

## Leader's Preparation

- Arrange for the picture outlines that you will use in practice and presentation.
- See that you have all materials ready for the art work.
- Determine how many youth you need for your artists. Assign them their topics and areas to be filled in on the picture. Talks should be brief and pointed and art work should be of best quality and blend into the total picture.
- Secure the people who will participate in the worship service and tell them what you are to do so they will be well prepared.
- See that your publicity is attractive and done ahead of time.
- Get someone to make the artist's palettes for the consecration service.
- Make your own preparation for the pre-prayer service. Prayer is the most important first step in all Christian work.
- Be sure the lighting effects you want for the picture during the consecration service are ready ahead of time.
- Announcements will have to be worked in where you feel best, but in such a way they do not break into the moments of worship.



## For the Counselor

Because you are attempting to show your youth how Christ can fill the emptiness you will want to be especially well prepared for the topic. Therefore use the best undergirding possible for your meeting by having all participants arrive early to share in the pre-prayer service. Every Christian Endeavor meeting should begin with a pre-prayer service.

## Publicity

Be sure and use a good-sized, conspicuous bulletin board to advertise this meeting. Get permission to decorate it two weeks prior to the meeting in order to have publicity for it up for the Sunday preceding the meeting and the Sunday of the meeting. Devise some means of drawing attention to the bulletin board display to all the members of your Junior High Christian Endeavor Society. One way this could be accomplished would be to arrange to have a guided tour past the board by a *herald* the Sunday evening preceding the meeting. Contact the leaders involved the Sunday evening before and see if this could be worked into their plans.

One other way of bringing this to the Junior High Christian Endeavor members' attention would be to have some members of your publicity committee wear a sandwich board sign which reads—*Don't read this bulletin board. It is unfair to organized emptiness.* Then have the person walk up and down the hall by the bulletin board at times people would normally be in the hall. On

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the bulletin board have as many empty items as you can collect and use with a sign by each. Here are some samples (you could think of others with more local color and meaning for your group): an empty paper sack with the notice—AN EMPTY SACK HAS NO LUNCH IN IT; an empty envelope with this notice — AN EMPTY ENVELOPE CAN'T CARRY THE MESSAGE YOU INTENDED TO WRITE; an empty box with the wording—AN EMPTY BOX SERVES NO USEFUL PURPOSE; an empty chair (picture) which says—I'M NOT USEFUL IF NO ONE SITS ON ME. Along with the empty items and signs should be large lettering advertising the meeting: COME AND SEE HOW TO FILL YOUR EMPTINESS—JUNIOR HIGH CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR—SUNDAY, JANUARY 27.

Because this is the introductory meeting to Christian Endeavor Week, make sure that you work in close cooperation with (1) the person in charge of the entire Christian Endeavor Week services, and (2) the leader for the meeting of your Junior High Christian Endeavor Society for the coming Sunday evening. Everything that happens in your society and the other Christian Endeavor societies in your church during Christian Endeavor Week should present a total picture of youth working together for Christ and the Church in the harmony of His Spirit.

## Let's be Artists

An artist can take an empty drawing surface and with well placed lines and shading produce a picture that fills the emptiness. Let's be artists in this meeting and do just that. Here are some possible ways in which you can do this for your meeting.

1. Secure the services of a good, competent sketch artist who would draw for you, in faint outline form only before your meeting, two large identical pictures of Christ at the door or the head of Christ. These can be his own interpretation but they should be able to become good likenesses of what you want.

One of these pictures is for you and your program helpers to use beforehand for practice so you will know positively how it will turn out for the meeting. The other picture is for use during the actual presentation of the topic. Each picture should have numbered sections (as in a paint-it-yourself by number picture). These numbered areas would

be the same in number as you would have members of your Christian Endeavor group participating in the meeting.

Have your meeting so arranged that this blank picture is the focal point of attention. The picture should be sturdily fastened against the wall. Have those who are going to participate come dressed in artist's smocks and large bows, to add color to your presentation as they add color to the blank picture.

Use a good grade of colored artist's chalk, large crayons, or paint brushes and paint (whichever medium will work best for your purpose and group). As each person participates in the meeting, he or she colors in the section of the picture assigned previously and in the practice. When the meeting is over your empty sheet will be filled with Christ, who fills all emptiness in life. This completed picture can be used for your worship center.

2. If you cannot find someone who is competent to draw and prepare such a picture for your meeting, you can prepare one yourself by using:

- a. The faint outline of a cross marked off for coloring.
- b. The outline of the Christian Endeavor emblem.
- c. The outline of a church.

Although the picture of Christ might be more inspirational than the others as it unfolds, these other emblems can be made to be just as challenging by proper handling and in turn would be effective worship centers.

3. Another possibility would be to get a picture of Christ and cut it in sections like a jig-saw puzzle. This could be used on a flannelgraph, one piece to be put on at a time.

## Service of Consecration

Closing with a Service of Consecration will help make the topic more meaningful to everyone present. These closing moments should give the opportunity for each one to come closer to Christ and His will.

It would be helpful at this part of the meeting to have the room lights dimmed with only one light focused on the completed picture. This can be done following the singing of *I Am Thine, O Lord*.

Prayer time should begin with silent meditation, giving each one time to search his own life, asking God to empty from it all those things that hinder His

will from being accomplished. After time of silence call for five or six sentence prayers.

Following the solo invite each one come to the front of the room to receive a small nicely wrapped package. While this is being done quietly the pianist could play *Living for Jesus*. When everyone has taken a package to them to quietly open them. Inside each package (prepared before the meeting) is a small artist's palette with color circles of red and white with the message *We can fill our emptiness by being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Christ Jesus, unto the glory and praise of God, Philippians 11*. The leader should comment on the Christian Endeavor colors (red and white) and their meaning. Have each one join together in reading the printed message on the palette.

A brief challenge should be brought by either the counselor or minister. Conclude the meeting with the hymn of consecration and the Mizpah Benediction.

## Daily Bible Readings

M. Jan. 21	The Lord Makes Empty	Isaiah 24:1-2
T. Jan. 22	The Cry of the Empty	Jeremiah 14:1-7
W. Jan. 23	Riches Do Not Fill	Luke 12:13-21
T. Jan. 24	The Hungry Shall Be Filled	Luke 6:20-26
F. Jan. 25	God Makes Full	Ephesians 3:14-17
S. Jan. 26	The Fulness of Christ	Ephesians 4:8-13
Sun. Jan. 27	Topic: To Fill the Emptiness Matthew 12:43,44; Revelation 3:20	

Comments by Mrs. Newell Morgan, a graduate school teacher in Boise, Idaho, and wife of the minister of First Christian Church

## CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR WEEK PACKET

The 1963 Christian Endeavor Week Packet contains many items to help you and your society observe the 82nd anniversary of the founding of Christian Endeavor.

A radio program, "Our Heritage in Christian Endeavor" may be presented to the society as part of the Sunday night meeting or at an evening church service. The television program, "To Fill the Emptiness" may be used in this way too.

Other items contained in the packet include: a "Noah's Ark Party," plans for a Birthday Banquet, a Worship Service for Christian Endeavor day, and a special Christian Endeavor Bulletin Cover.

The 1963 Packet is available from the International Society of Christian Endeavor, 1221 East Broad Street, Columbus 16, Ohio. Price: 50¢ each.



# Topics

FOR SENIOR HIGHS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Topic 1 in a Unit: My Devotional Life

## "In the Beginning God"

Genesis 1:1-8



### Suggested Program

Pre-Prayer Service  
Call to Worship: Psalm 118:24  
Hymn: *Begin Each Day with Jesus*  
Scripture: Genesis 1:1-8  
Hymn: *Challenge of the New Day*  
Sentence Prayers  
Hymn: *There's a New Day Dawning*  
Presentation of Topic  
Discussion of Topic Questions  
Hymn: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*  
Friendship Circle and Benediction

### Our Aims

1. To turn the thoughts of the young people to their spiritual emphasis for the New Year.
2. To help young people make definite plans for a revitalized prayer life and a purposeful program of Scripture reading.
3. To help young people realize that they can begin again.

### Promoting the Meeting

Prepare enough posters for all available bulletin boards. These posters could be made by cutting out pictures of runners getting ready for a race. Around the picture print the key phrases from the suggested Scripture readings. For example, from John 1:1 you would take the words, *In the beginning was the Word*; from John 3:7 *Ye must be born again*. Be sure to announce this meeting in the various church school classes also.

### To the Leader

Everyone is interested in making a new beginning. Even young people are aware of the fact that they could have been better than they have and are therefore anxious to make a new beginning. At the start of a new year you have the opportunity to offer this new chance. As the discussion develops some very interesting information may be presented to the society. Make sure that you dwell long enough on this information so that it will become a part of each person's thinking.

### Topic Presentation

On this the first Sunday of the new year we are all thinking of new beginnings. We would like to forget our past mistakes and failures, and would prefer to look to the future for better things. In other words, we would like to make a new start in our physical life as well

as in our spiritual life. One of the blessed promises of Scripture is that all of us have another chance. There are, however, some conditions we have to meet before this promise becomes effective.

As Christian young people we should become increasingly aware of the presence of God in our lives, and of our dependence upon Him in all that we do. As we think of new beginnings and a new year we should think of them in terms of what God and I can do. Every project we undertake this year as individual Christians should include God as our guide and helper.

If we are to be guided by God, it follows that we ought to know what God's will for us is. This involves improved communications with God. Just how does God communicate with us, and we with Him? Perhaps the most meaningful way for us is through devotions.

As we start this new year, let each of us not only resolve to begin each day with a Quiet Hour, but let us also make definite advances in our Quiet Hour. A devotional period, as well as other forms of communication, is a two-way road. We come to God to express our thanks, to open our hearts so that He may see our desires and hopes, and then we listen for Him to make His will known to us. This is really the secret of the power of a Quiet Hour at the beginning of each day.

*Let the members of the society relate ways in which they keep the Quiet Hour each day. Give an opportunity for each*

person present to suggest helps and methods for making the Quiet Hour a high point in the day's experiences. A brief but meaningful discussion of what prayer is could be held at this point. Ask the members what they think it means when we are told to listen to God speaking to us when we practice devotions. If communication with God is a two-way street, just how does He speak to us? Ask the members to offer experiences in which they believe God has spoken to them.

Surely God speaks to us through the Bible. Not that there is something magical about the Bible, but rather that it is God's word addressed to men to help them in solving the problems that have been present in all generations. Scripture has a quality that permits us to discover new meanings of familiar passages when applied to personal problems. Reading of Scripture daily should certainly become one of the channels through which we allow God to make His will known to us.

But there are many other ways by which we hear God speak to us. One of the most revealing as well as rewarding avenues is the study of nature. With the modern emphasis on science, we can use all the newly discovered facts about the world to help us understand God, and His will for our lives. Let us examine some of the facts of nature which are available to all of us and attempt to discover how God speaks to us through these facts.

We hear much these days about space. Let us think of space for a moment. How far does it extend? We must either think of space as having limits or as having no limits, but we can do neither. Try thinking of space as hav-

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ing no limits and immediately you wonder where it goes and how far it extends. We do not even have terms by which to express such a thought. All terms of measurement, even those expressed in light years, are terms of a limited space. Now try thinking of space as being of a measurable distance. Immediately your mind wonders what is beyond this limit or end of space. So we humans find it impossible to think in terms of either *limitless* or *limited* space. Genesis 1:1 comes closest to being correct when it says, "In the beginning God . . ." This is as much as we can be certain about.

We have been speaking of thinking. Where do we find thought? Some of you have seen letters whirl about a movie screen and then arrange themselves in some sort of meaningful order. Surely no one believes the letters arranged themselves to form a thought. Some mind conceived the idea and formed the arrangement. Thus we see that thought is always connected with a mind. Never have we been able to find a thought apart from a mind. However, there are some thoughts too great for the human mind to grasp. The thought about a limitless space, for instance. Whose thought is it then? We Christians say it is God's thought. So we begin to have some idea about the wonderful mind of God. And the more we learn about this universe, the more we learn about the wisdom and greatness of God.

Or let us think of beauty for a few moments. What is beauty? Is it color? Is the rose beautiful because it is red, and the violet because it is purple? If this is so why is Whistler's "Mother," a painting in almost unrelieved black and white, one of the great works of art? And if color makes for beauty, why do you remove the discarded piece of paper from under the rose bush, for it is even redder than the rose. Someone has said that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Yet most of us agree that certain things, like a junk yard, are not beautiful, while a flower garden is. We can even take another step. Why does man appreciate beauty? It seems to be present for a purpose. Whose purpose? We can account for these only in terms of God. Thus God speaks to us through the beautiful things of the world. We might speak in a like vein about the presence of humor, purpose, and order. In all these qualities, the creation speaks to us of the Creator. It tells us of His wisdom, power, love, justice and presence.

God frequently speaks to us through music. That is why we use music in our worship services. The great hymns of the church may serve as a channel through

## Questions for Discussion

Discuss the questions found in the topic material before discussing the following questions.

1. What qualities of God do we find in nature?
2. Does the privilege of a "new beginning" imply carelessness about our daily activity?
3. How much ought we to depend upon the right to begin again? Would it be more important to strive to continue to please God?

which God reveals His will for our lives. The entire concept of worship tends to humble us, turn our minds to God, and make us receptive to God's revelation to us. All of these things then can and should be used by the Christian to make God a reality in his life. Feeling His presence we then can say, *In all that I set out to do, I will follow where God leads.*

The Scripture reading for January 4, (Acts 12:1-17) portrays Paul's new beginning. When Paul discovered that he had been working contrary to God's will, he turned completely about and began to work for and with those whom he had previously condemned. When anyone realizes that he has been making a mistake, God stands ready to permit a change of direction and a new beginning.

In discussing this topic we must take still another step. Not only does God permit a new beginning for those who have been trying to live without Him. He requires it! John 3:1-22, our Scripture lesson for January 3, tells the story of Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, coming to Jesus by night. He was very interested in some of the teachings of Jesus, and was especially concerned about eternal life and how he might find it. The admonition of Jesus was, *Ye must be born again.* So if we are to be followers of Jesus, it is necessary for us to make a new beginning. The new year is an ideal time to take stock of what we have been doing with our lives, and to make a new beginning in living the Christian life.

There is even more to it than this. You will remember the account of the woman brought to Jesus after she had been found to be an adulteress. The men who brought her reminded Jesus that the law required that she be put to death by stoning. Quietly Jesus wrote on the ground with a stick and suggested that whoever was without sin might

throw the first stone. Notice He did not say that whoever had not committed this particular sin could throw the first stone, but whoever had committed sin. Obviously Jesus is saying that since we are all sinners, we have no right to condemn others when they sin. Now comes the important part of this Scripture for us. Turning to the woman, the sinner in this case, He says, *Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more.* This seems to be one of the conditions for forgiveness. *Sin no more.* All of the Scripture lessons have the same fundamental message. We all are sinners. We all need forgiveness. We all have an opportunity for a new beginning. *Go and sin no more.*

## Alternate Methods

This meeting as developed is intended to be used in a discussion type of meeting. There are other ways in which this meeting could be presented.

You could develop a list of great Christian men, and well in advance of the meeting give one name to each member of the society to look up the life history of that person. Request each one to come to the meeting prepared to tell whether or not this person had a new beginning in his or her life. Try to discover why the new beginning was made and what prompted the individual to make it. Try to decide if this new beginning marked an improvement in the person's ability to be of service to Christ and mankind.

A project which might prove helpful to the members during the year ahead, would be to have each member honestly appraise his or her own life in the past. Then decide, after a period of prayer, what areas of his life need changing most. He would write these in a letter to be sealed and addressed to himself. Later in the year have a meeting in which each member would be able to open his own letter and decide for himself the degree to which he has succeeded in improving his Christian life.

## Daily Bible Readings

M. Dec. 31	Beginning a Nation	Genesis 12:1-9
T. Jan. 1	For the New Year	Psalms 27
W. Jan. 2	All's Forgiven	John 8:1-11
T. Jan. 3	A New Life	John 3:1-22
F. Jan. 4	Beginning Anew	Acts 9:10-22
S. Jan. 5	God Was the Beginning	John 1:1-14
Sun. Jan. 6	Topic: "In the Beginning God"	Genesis 1:1-8

Comments by Rev. Walter C. Schaeffer, minister of the Presbyterian Church of East Bethany, New York, and a former field secretary of the New York State Union



# "He Buildded an Altar"

Genesis 26:17-25

## Suggested Program

Prayer Service

Include: *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee*

Call to Worship: Ephesians 6:10-18

Vocation

Chorus Time: (Sing several choruses)

*Challenge of the New Day, God's Way My Way, In My Heart There Rings a Melody, In the Service of the King, Now I Belong to Jesus.*

Announcements and Offering

Special Music

Scripture Reading: Genesis 26:17-25

Leader's Introduction of Topic

Bible Witnesses

Discussion Questions (or Panel)

Hymn: *Spirit of the Living God*

Presentation of the Quiet Hour Covenant by leader or counselor

Quiet Hour: Scripture

Meditation

Prayer and Mizpah Benediction

Quiet Postlude

## Publicity

Make posters in the shape of large numeral 1's with the legend *What's number ONE for YOU? Talk it over at Christian Endeavor tonight.* Or a poster could be covered solid with cutouts from magazines and newspapers of the numeral 1 or the word *First*, with the legend *Discuss FIRST THINGS with us at Christian Endeavor.* The first suggestion could easily be used on handbills to be mailed to members and prospects, and distributed at Sunday school.

## For the Leader and Counselor

The Quiet Hour has been the subject of much lip-service that it is easy for a program on this topic to be superficial. However, careful planning and preparation can make this program one which will be deeply significant in developing the spiritual vitality of all the young people who attend.

Make a display of devotional helps mentioned in *Discussion Question 6*. Make sure it is complete. Secure in advance copies of the *Quiet Hour Membership Covenant* card and the folder *What Is the Quiet Hour?*

For the Bible witnesses take a sheet of white wrapping paper several feet long and trim it in the shape of a large numeral "1." Attach it to the wall and after each person speaks he will attach his token on the numeral with a small piece of cellophane tape. These props will add to the effectiveness of the program, but they must be planned and constructed carefully, and the participants instructed in their use, if accidents are to be avoided.

Prepare a worship center using a print of an appropriate painting, such as Durer's *Praying Hands*, Hoffman's *Christ in Gethsemane*, or *The Vigil*, which depicts a young knight praying in the chapel the night before beginning his quest. Interpretations of the first two paintings are in *Christ and the Fine Arts* (Maus), and the second is the subject of a complete worship program in *Worship Programs in the Fine Arts* (Alice Anderson Bays). Any of these could be the basis for a meditation in the closing Quiet Hour. Many devotional hymns suitable for Quiet Hour meditations are included in both of these books.

## Leader's Introduction

The key to our topic for tonight is found in the last verse of our Scripture, in the order of the actions which Isaac performed. After the Lord appeared to Isaac and reaffirmed to him the promise originally made to Abraham, Isaac did three things: first, he built an altar for the worship of God; only when this was completed did he pitch his tent, symbolizing his attention to his physical needs. Then he dug a well, a symbol of his concern for his neighbors.

Today, we can use this example of Isaac in ordering our own lives in God's service, in setting a priority on our time, our attention, and our energy; in assigning a priority of loyalty. *First things first* is a motto we often disregard in the press of our daily existence. It is our purpose tonight to arrive at a clearer recognition of Christ's claim to first place in our hearts.

The Bible is filled with people who were forced to choose what to put first. Witnesses will report on some of these choices now.

## Bible Witnesses

(These could be costumed, but a towel turban for each is sufficient.)

1. I was a rich young ruler of the Jews. One day I came to Jesus and asked

Him, "Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? Jesus named some of the commandments: "Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother."

I was proud to be able to say that I had kept all these commandments from my youth. How surprised I was, then, when He told me I lack one thing and that I should sell all that I have and give it to the poor and follow Him.

This unreasonable demand was so unexpected that I couldn't even reply, but turned and went away. As I left the scene I could hear Jesus saying to His disciples, "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God." (Attach a large pasteboard coin covered with gold paper to the numeral on wall.)

2. I was a servant to a great lord. One day he sent me to deliver a message to all the guests he had invited to a feast. All those to whom I was sent made excuses: one said that he had just bought a plot of ground and must inspect it; another had bought five yoke of oxen and had to go test them; another had gotten married and could not interrupt his honeymoon to go to the feast. These sounded like plausible reasons to me, but my master was angry, and ordered me to go out into the streets and bring in strangers who had not been bidden to feast. He said, "None of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper." My master has no patience with excuses of any kind. (Place motto EXCUSE ME PLEASE, cut from brightly colored paper, on the numeral.)

3. My name is Sapphira. My husband, Ananias, and I were members of the

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early Jerusalem church. We were among the most prominent and influential members, until the unfortunate incident occurred. All the Christians were selling their property and bringing the money to the apostles to be used for the good of all. Ananias and I were not really in favor of the plan to begin with, but you know what social pressures you are under in charitable drives like that. So we really had to do it, in order to save face, so to speak. But we decided we just had to keep back a part of the sale price for some personal needs. Of course it wouldn't do to mention that, so we just reported that what we turned in was the whole purchase price. It's only what anyone would have done. But you should have heard what Peter said to me. Me, one of the oldest, staunchest members of the church! Why, I could have dropped dead right on the spot. As a matter of fact—but that's beside the point. I still don't think my private financial dealings were any concern of his. *(Fasten a large colored picture of a peacock, marked PRIDE on the numeral.)*

4. I was with a group of Jesus' followers one day, and had just made up my mind to go with Him too, but when I said, "Let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home in my house," Jesus said to me, "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Well, I can tell you right now this took me back a pace or two. I was amazed, and just watched silently as He moved away with His followers. Mine has always been a close-knit family, and we still are. So when I hear that Jesus also said, "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me," I am glad I stayed at home. I could never go off and leave my family and my friends, not knowing whether we would ever meet again. I am sure that following Jesus would have been great fun, but that's just too high a price for me. *(Fasten ring of colored construction paper labeled FAMILY CIRCLE on numeral.)*

5. I am a farmer. Once I heard Jesus tell a story about farming. He told of a farmer who sowed good seed, but the crop was not of uniform quality. Some of it bore abundantly, while some was a total loss. He said, "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful."

I have watched the cycle of crops through many years, and Jesus was right, about grain, and people, too. *(Attach bundle of dried weeds to numeral on wall.)*

LEADER: The Bible contains examples of men and women who put God's will first in their lives, as well as those who did not.

1. I was with Jesus when the rich young ruler spoke to Him. As he was going away, Peter turned to Jesus and said, "Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee."

And Jesus answered and said, "Verily I say unto you, there is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold, now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life." *(Have white paper of size and shape to cover top third of numeral, with legend SELF-DENYING. Attach on top of placards placed by preceding speaker.)*

2. One day in the temple I heard Jesus call His followers to Him, and saw Him point out an elderly widow. She had just placed two mites in the treasury. Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: for all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living." *(Cover middle portion of placarded numeral with white paper bearing slogan SACRIFICIAL GIVING.)*

3. I was a servant at the court of Darius in Babylon, where the young Jew, Daniel, had risen to such prominence that the king had set him above all the princes of the kingdom. Daniel's enemies persuaded the king to sign a decree that any man who should pray to any god except the king during a period of thirty days should be cast into the den of lions. Though Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he knelt three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did before.

Daniel was arrested and cast into the den of lions, but he was miraculously preserved from harm. This caused the king to decree that all men should honor the God of Daniel. *(Cover remaining portion of numeral with paper lettered PERSEVERANCE IN THE FACE OF PERSECUTION.)*

## Questions for Discussion

*(Could be assigned in advance for panel presentation.)*

1. What things are sometimes placed first in young people's lives today? (Be sure these are mentioned: social life; friends; family responsibilities; school work; school and community activities; jobs.)

2. How may the legitimate calls on our time and energies be reconciled with God's share in our lives? (Mention Luke 20:21-25, "Render unto Caesar.")

3. What are the elements which should be included in prayer? (Include and define: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, petition, intercession, submission.)

4. How is Bible study a help to the Christian? (Include knowledge of God as He is revealed in Jesus Christ; knowledge of right and wrong; strength to overcome temptation; fellowship with Christ; guidance in daily decisions; inspiration and challenge to live more Christlike lives.)

5. What are some aids to our understanding of the Bible? (As each item included in the display is mentioned, show it to the group. Include and explain commentaries, Bible dictionaries, Bible atlas, concordance.)

6. What other materials can aid in our meditation? (Printed devotional quarterlies and books; collections of religious poetry, a good hymnal. Have made a supply of paper bookmarks with the Christian Endeavor Daily Bible readings for next week's topic, include this in the display and distribute it to those present.)

7. How does our relation to our fellow man reflect our relation to God? (Include Matthew 25:34-46.)

## Closing Quiet Hour

As we have focused our attention on putting first things first, let us close our meeting with a group Quiet Hour, including those elements which we have discussed. Let us read aloud together Psalm 143. *(The leader may include here a painting or hymn interpretation, having the hymn sung or played as background music during the interpretation. Close with prayer and the Mizpah Benediction.)*

## Daily Bible Readings

M. Jan. 7	Servant's Mission	Genesis 24:1-28
T. Jan. 8	Mission Accomplished	Genesis 24:29-60
W. Jan. 9	Homemakers	Genesis 24:61-67
T. Jan. 10	Sons of Abraham	Genesis 25:1-23
F. Jan. 11	Impetuous Youth	Genesis 25:24-34
S. Jan. 12	Blessed of God	Genesis 26:1-16
Sun. Jan. 13—Topic:	"He Built an Altar"	Genesis 26:17-25

Comments by Mr. Charles C. Meek of Arcadia, Texas, president of the Texas Christian Endeavor Union



Topic 3 in a Unit: My Devotional Life

# "The Beginning of Wisdom"

Psalm 111

## Suggested Program

Prayer Service  
Worship  
Prayer Service:  
*God's Way My Way*  
*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*  
*Give of Your Best to the Master*  
Scripture Lesson: Psalm 111  
Singer Hymn: *Have Thine Own Way*  
Penitence Prayers  
Announcements and Offering  
Topic  
Role Playing  
Discussion  
Hymn of Consecration: *More Like the Master*  
Benediction

## Preparing for the Meeting

Read all the way through the topic suggestions. Go back and read it through again and as you do so make notes of the thoughts that come to your mind as to how you want to develop the topic.  
Read Psalm 111 through several times. Compare the suggestions as to the interpretation of this Psalm of praise with the Scripture verses until you get the meaning of it. It is called the *Hallelujah—Praise the Lord* Psalm.  
Read the *Daily Bible Readings* listed at the end of the topic. Keep reading Psalm 111.  
When you assign the members of your society to do the role playing, select the ones who will make this effective. Discuss with your sponsor those to use before you ask anyone. Be sure to check with them two weeks before the meeting to make sure they are preparing their roles so they will be effective. Have a large chalkboard and some chalk ready to use.  
Pray much as you prepare the topic and make plans for the meeting. It would not be very consistent to lead a topic on *The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom* until you have proven this to be so.

## Publicity

Make a large poster with just the word WISDOM as the center of interest. Underneath in smaller letters put, *Who Has It? What Is It?* Then add the name and place.  
If cards have not been sent out recently to all the members, ask the secretary if it would be possible to get them sent out with somewhat the same wording as the suggested poster, adding *Bring your Bible!*

## Presenting the Topic

Ask someone to read Psalm 111 who can give meaning to it as it is read. The explanation of it could be given by the reader or by a second person.

On the chalkboard write, *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*, and underneath write, *A good understanding have all those that do His commandments.*

Then write, *Where the fear of the Lord rules the heart . . .* and list the joys and wisdom that are the result of this trust in Him as Psalm 111 is explained.

## Explanation of Psalm 111

VERSE 1 Praise the Lord with your whole heart wherever you are, in public and in private.

VERSE 2 God's works are great like Himself. They are products of His great wisdom and power.

VERSE 3 Do we appreciate His enduring gifts? (Name some of them.)

VERSE 4 If God's works are to be remembered because they are wonderful, what can we do that is worthy of being remembered? (Leading someone to the Lord, doing something we may not want to do but doing it graciously for someone that His name may be honored.)

VERSE 5 God gave manna to the children of Israel (Exodus 16:11-15). God will never forget His covenants. All of His promises are true.

VERSE 6 God gave His children the victory over the heathen nations at the time they went into Canaan under Joshua. In David's reign He gave him victories over the heathen nations.

VERSES 7 AND 8 All of His commandments are sure, perfect and just.

VERSE 9 To prove His covenant of redemption, He sent the Redeemer. His covenant is to last how long?

VERSE 10 This is the heart of the topic. God is great. To know God is the beginning of wisdom. Men can never be wise until they fear God. We



have reason to praise Him for all that we have comes from Him. If we fear the Lord we delight in His commandments. Our hearts are ready to do His will because we know what He has for us is best.

The first verse of Psalm 112 is also a summary of Psalm 111 (Read it).

Following the reading and explanation, complete on the chalkboard the list of things we enjoy and are able to accomplish because He gives us not only the promises but the wisdom to carry them through. Give opportunity for discussion on the items listed.

## Role Playing

*Several weeks before the meeting ask other young people in the society to help you with the topic by role playing. In each instance stress how the individual portrayed sought the Lord's guidance or will. The following individuals are suggested.*

HANNAH (whose name means grace) I Samuel 1:5 to 2:3 and 2:18-21. Emphasize 1:17,18, and 20.

DAVID (whose name means well beloved) I Samuel 17. Emphasize verses 37,45, and 47.

MOSES (whose name means drawn-out) Exodus 17:1-7.

Emphasize verses 4,5, and 6.

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC (Abraham means father of a multitude, Isaac means laughter) Genesis 22:1-14. This was the son Abraham had been promised but he had had to wait until he was one hundred years old before

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Isaac was born. Now, God asks him to offer him as a burnt offering. Emphasize verses 2,5,8,11, and 12.

JESUS Matthew 4:18-22.

Emphasize that immediately they left what they were doing and followed Him.

If there are some people in your church that you know have made important decisions, depending on the Lord to guide them, perhaps they could be invited to the meeting and tell briefly how they were led of God to know His wisdom for them. A missionary home on furlough should be able to tell of some experience, but warn anyone taking part that they are just to have a few minutes.

## Life Situations

*Read these real life situations and then discuss what you think the decision was. After general discussion and some conclusion has been reached, and not before, tell what decision was made by the people involved.*

John had wanted to be a doctor from his earliest recollection, so it was easy for him to decide what courses to take in high school and college in order to be ready for medical school. Along the line of study, he decided he wanted to be a medical missionary. He had grown up in a Christian home and had been a dedicated Christian for a long time. After graduation from medical school and his internship, he found there was need of a doctor on an island where the only doctor was getting ready to retire.

John went to this island. He was an eager doctor and very dedicated to his calling. Nothing was too much for him if he could relieve suffering. The people soon had great respect for him and they took him to their hearts. He married a lovely girl who had grown up on this island. For ten years he served the people and they came to think of him as belonging there. But in his mind he had not forgotten his ambition to go to the mission field.

Suddenly, without warning, a church of another denomination wrote to John and asked him if he would consider going to Africa to take charge of the hospital they maintained. The doctor who had been in charge was retiring. John thought of his wife and two children. He thought of the many folks on the island who depended upon him. He remembered his decision to be a medical missionary. He prayed much about this

for the Lord's leading. What do you think he did?

Discuss what you think he did.

This is what happened. He went to Africa. He found great joy in his new work. Two more girls were born into their family in Africa. The older boy and girl are in this country now going to school. He and his wife find enough joy in serving the Lord where He has placed them that they can even find grace in having their family divided for schooling.

Bill and Sam had been raised in a Christian home where church attendance by the whole family was an every Sunday occurrence. Bill was happy to find his companions in the church and he was dedicated to the Lord. After graduation from college he married a fine Christian girl from the church and then went to another state to accept a position. He and his bride became a part of the church of their denomination at once and were soon working with the young people.

Sam had gone to church with his family but the reality of living the Christian life was not quite so real to him. In high school he had been an honor student and an athlete so it was easy for him to be popular. Soon he was going around with a group from high school who cared very little for the things of the Lord. He was going with a girl whose interests were much for the world.

Sam's mother and father were very concerned about him. They prayed much and they tried to talk to him, without being too demanding, telling him he was not spending his time and interests in the best way.

His time spent in church activities was fast dwindling. At the end of school he went to another state to work for the summer. Away from home and also from his new friends, he had time to think.

On his way home at the end of the summer he came through the state where Bill and his wife were now living. He spent several days with them. They took him to their church and he could easily see how happy they were in their Christian marriage and in their new church. When Sam got home he said, "Bill sure got the perfect wife. If I could only find a girl half as nice for a wife I would surely feel lucky." His dad spoke up and said, "You remember where he got Betty, don't you? He found her in church."

What decision do you think Sam made in regard to his worldly friends and his interest in the things of the Lord?

What happened. It was not easy and did not come quickly. The so-called friends were constantly calling Sam and urging him to enjoy the things they did. It has taken about a year for the change to come.

But he had broken off with the girl whose he had been with and is now working with the young people of his church. Christian life is beginning to grow.

Point out in both of these situations that it was the "fear of the Lord" that brought about the wisdom." In John's case he and his wife had sought the Lord and will for their lives.

In the case of Sam it was his family who had kept praying that he would soon discover the truth of Matthew 1:26.

## Questions for Discussion

### 1. What is wisdom?

(Webster says, "The power of judging right and following the soundest of action based on knowledge, experience, understanding, etc.; good judgment; discretion; sagacity." Sagacity means "keenly perceptive or discerning; farsighted judgment; sound in judgment." Discuss each these descriptions of wisdom. Then read James 1:5 and James 3:17.)

### 2. What is understanding?

"... to know or grasp what is meant by learning; the power or ability to think and learn—Webster. Read Proverbs 2:2 and Colossians 1:11.)

### 3. Is Christianity more than intellectual knowledge?

(Read Jeremiah 8:8,9 and Psalm 19:7,11.)

Is Christianity centered in the intellect, the heart, or the will? (Read Romans 10:9,10 Matthew 22:36-40, 11 Corinthians 8:12. These references show that it is first necessary to accept Christ as Saviour, then to serve Him with all of our intellect, heart, and will.)

## Daily Bible Readings

M. Jan. 14	More Precious Than Gold	Proverbs 16:1-27
T. Jan. 15	Are We Wise?	Jeremiah 8:1-12
W. Jan. 16	Conceitedly Wise	Romans 12:16-21
T. Jan. 17	Judgment of the Foolish	Deuteronomy 32:28-43
F. Jan. 18	Reward of the Wise Nation	Deuteronomy 4:1-13
S. Jan. 19	Excellency of God	Psalm 19
Sun. Jan. 20—Topic:	"The Beginning of Wisdom"	Psalm 111

Comments by Mrs. R. E. LeRiche, who has served as counselor of many Christian Endeavor societies and as vice-president of the Pacific Region of the International Society



Topic 1 in a Unit: Christian Endeavor Week

# To Fill the Emptiness

Matthew 12:43,44; Revelation 3:20

(Denominational Day—Beginning Christian Endeavor Week)



## Suggested Program

Prayer Service

Announcements

Call to Worship: Psalm 145:1-4

Hymn: *Then Jesus Came*

Scripture: Matthew 12:43,44; Revelation 3:20

Hymn: *With Thy Spirit Fill Me*

Prayer

Topic

Hymn: *Near to the Heart of God*

Benediction

## Publicizing the Meeting

Posters featuring Sallman's picture of Christ entitled *Heart's Door* and with the caption *What Will You Allow to Fill Your Life?* You might have such expressions as *pleasure, material things, desire for fame and position, Christ*, scattered over the poster. Be sure to note that this is the beginning of Christian Endeavor Week.

## Preparation for the Meeting

You might have the picture *Heart's Door* in a worship center. Ask several young people ahead of time to participate in a role playing service. A good deal of imagination and creativity may be used in this program. A few suggestions will be found in the development that follows. These may stimulate the young people to think of other situations. You also might use a tape recorder to record not only the voices but also comments after each voice. Different voices may be used for each.

## Topic Introduction

Every normal human being not only wants to live, but he wants to live to be full. Men and women want the good life. But so often the standard for judging the good life is either vague or in some other way inadequate. Many people think that they would be content and happy with a certain kind of a life, but they find out too late that this too is empty.

Then too, there is that view of life which seems to assume that the *good life* is simply the subtraction of all the *bad* types of behavior. But this is not true. Christian goodness is a positive commitment to the service of Christ. One's commitment to Christ will prevent him from engaging in certain activities. On the other hand there are positive acts which are likewise demanded of the Christian.

Tonight we want to present a picture of man's yearning to be filled and made whole. We also shall picture some good and bad ways by which man can come to a realization of this yearning for the good life.

## Tape Recorded Dialogues

**FIRST VOICE:** I am an alcoholic. I feel inadequate for life; somehow I cannot measure up to what I feel I should be. Life's problems are too much for me. I seek to escape life through alcohol. I don't mean to drink too much but just enough to get away from it all.

Yes, there are thousands of men and women who have tried to fill the emptiness with alcohol. It has so mastered them that it is destroying their families, their businesses, and even their own lives and souls. Many of these people are not aware of the extent to which this habit has hold of them. Many of them are otherwise respectable citizens, but they are gradually succumbing to this disease.

**SECOND VOICE:** I am one of thousands of people who attempt to escape life through pleasure. I seek many avenues of paid entertainment and the excitement of modern life to escape the deep frustrations of my soul. Some things seem to give me momentary satisfactions, but then I must have more thrilling and daring experiences than ever before. Sometimes I am led to engage in activities that result in losing my life.

Yes, there are thousands of young people who have been led into the wrong ways of life in an attempt to fill the emptiness with thrills. Some have become delinquents because they did some things just for the *kicks*. Or they wanted to show that they *weren't chicken*.

**THIRD VOICE:** I am the voice of one who tried to escape through romance. I was in the midst of adolescent rebellion. My parents didn't understand me. They treated me like a kid; then

I met John (or Mary). He (or she) was going through a like experience; he (or she) understood me. We talked a lot. We were together almost constantly. Then our parents began to pressure us. But we were in love. We got married in order to get away from so much pressure.

This is the story of an ever increasing number of young people who marry to escape an unpleasant situation at home. They have never considered what marriage really is. They have accepted responsibilities that may keep them from furthering their education. Their income will be limited. Later in life they realize that they had not had a chance to know real freedom. Had they allowed themselves to live through the earliest adolescent years to come to know a freedom which respected parental guidance, they would have been prepared for living with a mate who because he is a person demands understanding and acceptance. Those who show inability to adjust to parents will too often suffer the same inability in marriage.

Romance has its place in life but it is not an escape from the frustrations and emptiness of life. Mature love must accept and fulfill life's responsibilities, not escape them.

**FOURTH VOICE:** I am the voice of a beatnik. Man—play it cool—play it cool! Life doesn't make sense—who cares. Take the easy way, man—take the easy way.

Yes, many people try to fill the emptiness by just giving way to it. They feel that the emptiness is created by the demands of society. One escapes this by ignoring and even rebelling against the demands of society. You cannot fill the emptiness of life by reducing life to a meaningless existence.

**FIFTH VOICE:** I am the organization man. I want to fill the emptiness in my life by having status in a big organization. It will give me

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the security that I need and a chance for advancement. I will be satisfied with nothing less than the top.

This man represents many people whose principal motivation is the striving for status. All of us have some of this desire within us, but we should not allow this to master us.

**SIXTH VOICE:** "I am the voice of a religionist. I believe that religion is a very personal matter. It has no existence beyond me. My own thoughts, feelings, and conscience is the measure of my religion. It really doesn't make any difference what one believes just so he believes something. This belief helps me to escape the restrictions of an outward authoritarian religion.

Modern man wants freedom so much that he tries to escape all authority. His soul feels empty because he has nothing beyond himself which gives his life meaning.

Man for centuries has tried to live upon the assumption that his chief purpose is to find pleasure. But like the wise man of old he finds *this too is vanity*. Without correcting this wrong assumption many take the next step in assuming that all tension is bad. It should never be forgotten that the tension that is created by our knowledge that we have not yet reached our ideals can become a motivation for us to live the overcoming life.

**SEVENTH VOICE:** I am a Christian. I realize my life can be empty. I can never fill it myself. I realize that Jesus said, "For whoever will save his life shall lose it; but whoever shall lose his life for my sake and the Gospel's the same shall save it." My life has taken on new meaning since I began to live for Christ. The emptiness has been filled with His love and purpose. The Christian life is not always easy, but I know that it is possible because of His strength and guidance.

**EIGHTH VOICE:** I don't understand this bit about Christ being the answer. I hear and read this everywhere but how is He the answer to my problem? How does He help me to fill the emptiness of my life? When I see what He was and what He asked me to do, how can I keep from feeling an even deeper sense of emptiness?

**HONEST SEEKER:** I am an honest seeker after life. Tell me, how does Christ fill the emptiness of life?

**CHRISTIAN:** Through our knowledge and acceptance of Christ we can have a better self-image.

Many people feel an emptiness because they do not know what they are really supposed to be and do. Deep in the heart of every normal human being is the desire to be something or someone. Every person wants to feel that he is good for something. A person wants his life to count for something that really matters. At

the same time he must recognize certain limitations which may prevent him from doing what sometimes he would really like to do. This indeed is frustration.

A knowledge and acceptance of Christ should help us to realize that the most important thing that we can do in life is to serve our Master. Jesus said, "I came that you may have life and have it abundantly." He does not make us responsible for matters over which we have no control. But He only demands that we be good stewards of what we do have.

In the fellowship of other Christians we learn self-control. As we mature we learn that it is not always best for us to satisfy our own desires. The self usually finds its most satisfying experiences in relating to other persons, both human and divine.

**HONEST SEEKER:** You speak of relating to other persons. But can't one relate to other persons without being Christian?

**CHRISTIAN:** This is true; some people do to some degree. But love in its fullest and best sense is not achieved without Christ. We love all people when they are in themselves unlovable because we believe that all men are creations of God and have the potential through Christ of becoming something that they are not now. The Christian believes human life can change. He also believes that he has responsibility to help his brother know this, and with the saving power of Christ become the best person that he can become. He does not relate himself to a brother just to use the brother, nor even to merely tolerate him. But the Christian relates himself to a brother to help the brother know, accept and become more like Jesus Christ. He realizes that in this fellowship he himself will be helped to become more like the Master.

**HONEST SEEKER:** But in what other ways does Christ help fill the emptiness?

**CHRISTIAN:** As I do whatever I can for Christ, even though the task is seemingly an unimportant one, when it is done for Christ it is a significant one. This makes me feel that I have some real worth in God's eyes and that God has a purpose for my life. I also know that even though things do not turn out the way I planned that life still is meaningful when lived close to God's will.

## Questions for Discussion

1. What does it mean to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour?
2. Is there purpose in life?
3. Do you know God's purpose for your life?
4. How does Christ fill the emptiness that is found in so many lives?
5. Can our Christian Endeavor society help to fill the emptiness?

## Alternate Presentations

You may use the principal idea above and do some role playing. Have one take each part, adding dialogue to his or her own.

It would also be possible to have some role playing depicting Christ seeking to enter a young person's heart. The young person could propose that he was seeking to find *the good or full life* in many of the ways suggested above.

## Daily Bible Readings

- M. Jan. 21 The Lord Makes Empty Isaiah 24:1  
T. Jan. 22 The Cry of the Empty Jeremiah 14:1  
W. Jan. 23 Riches Do Not Fill Luke 12:13-14  
T. Jan. 24 The Hungry Shall Be Filled Luke 6:20-21  
F. Jan. 25 God Makes Full Ephesians 3:14  
S. Jan. 26 The Fullness of Christ Ephesians 4:8  
Sun. Jan. 27—Topic: To Fill the Emptiness Matthew 12:43,44; Revelation 3:17

Comments by Dr. Lawrence M. Bixler, professor of Bible and Christian Education at Northwest Christian College, Eugene, Oregon

## Committee Suggestions

### LOOKOUT COMMITTEE

Plan for meeting early so that you can go out in twos and get a friend. A snack would be in order as a *get acquainted* opportunity. Immediately after the snack and get acquainted have the meeting. The social committee could work with you on this program.

### DEVOTIONAL COMMITTEE

Get your leaders together for the month of February. Plan for some lively meetings that will help young people to know how to serve Christ and that will inspire them to do it.

### SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Have a Youth banquet. Ask a ladies' group in the church to serve it. Plan to invite non-members. For a Suggested Program use the Christian Endeavor Week Packet prepared especially for this purpose. The Packet may be ordered from The International Society of Christian Endeavor for only 50 cents.



# Topics and Helps

FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND ADULTS

## Topic Summaries for January

Prepared by the Adult Work Committee

### Stewardship (two topics)

#### With Little or Much

*Luke 16:10-13; 1 Timothy 6:6-10*

Faithfulness in stewardship does not depend upon great possessions, but a willing spirit. "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." It is not only our money, but also our time, talent, influence, and opportunities belong to God. "But I have no talent or influence," decries one who has been asked to perform a menial task. Consider examples from the Scriptures of those who have entrusted seemingly trite possessions to the glory of God: the poor widow of Zarephath and her meal and oil; the maiden Naaman's household and her influence; David and the stones; Dorcas and her needle; the little lad and his lunch. Consider others, and then brainstorm about ways in which we may be faithful stewards.

#### A Spiritual Enrichment

*11 Corinthians 9:6-15; Matthew 25:14-30*

God's absolute ownership is the beginning place in Christian stewardship (Deuteronomy 10:14; Psalm 24:1; James 17). A steward is one who is legally entrusted with the management of another's estate or affairs not his own, managing

or disbursing for another. Christian stewardship, then, is God's way of entrusting to men the affairs of His kingdom. In II Corinthians, Paul takes us into the very heart of the message of Christian stewardship. Conduct a Scripture hunt on passages regarding stewardship. Be certain that a concordance is on hand. Feature a debate: "Resolved, that tithing is the God-ordained method of Christian giving."

### Observance of the Lord's Day (two topics)

#### 1. Is It Right?

*Luke 13:11-17; 1 Corinthians 8:7-13*

Each of us has asked, "Is it right to do this on Sunday?" Sometimes we have dictatorially said, "No!" Sometimes we have placed the responsibility on others by perhaps saying, "Ask your father." It would be an endless list if we were to publish the dos and don'ts of Sunday observance. A discussion of these three questions may help us to see our responsibilities. First, does God anywhere in His word forbid this activity? Second, how will it affect my Christian life and relationship to God? Third, what effect will it have on my friends and neighbors? Test several Sunday activities by applying each of these three questions.

If we consider these questions honestly, without consideration of what we would like to do or what would be fun, the answers will become self-evident.

#### 2. To Be or to Do

*James 2:14-20; Mark 2:23-28*

Sunday often becomes the busiest day of the week. We listen to a sermon; we teach a class; we rehearse choir music; we attend Christian Endeavor; we visit shut-ins; we collapse at 9:00 p.m. James talks of faith as being dead without works, but in Mark we are reminded that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. Our Sunday responsibilities must not become a stumbling block to our own spiritual growth and enrichment. There are many things that need to be done on Sunday, but there is a limit to what we can do. We must determine if the Lord's Day has become a day of simply doing work for the Lord or of being drawn closer to Him. Discuss the relationship of these elements in your observance of the Lord's Day.

Chairman of the Adult Work Committee is Dr. Earle W. Gates; members are Phyllis G. Brown, Joan Pyle, and Jay Sheffield.

## Living Our Christian Faith

WE have faith in Christ. And the vital step beyond belief in Him is to strive to do God's will day by day.

"Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, and needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man" (John 2:23-25).

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one who saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (quoting Jesus, Matthew 7:20, 1).

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (quoting Jesus, John 3:17).

SOME of those who through the centuries have learned about Christ have sought any and all benefits they might acquire, pleading their case in His name. They have been alert and untiring in asking Christ to do something they desired. They are willing to declare faith in His love and His power if that will bring blessings, mostly perhaps in satisfaction of personal longings.

We might say that some have tried to find in the Saviour of mankind certain "magic words" that will bring personal material benefits.

The lawyer who quoted from Deuteronomy (in Luke 18) was far more noble and perceptive. If one would so love, "thou shalt live" (Luke 18:28). (Re-read the Old Testament command, with each word *all* emphasized!)

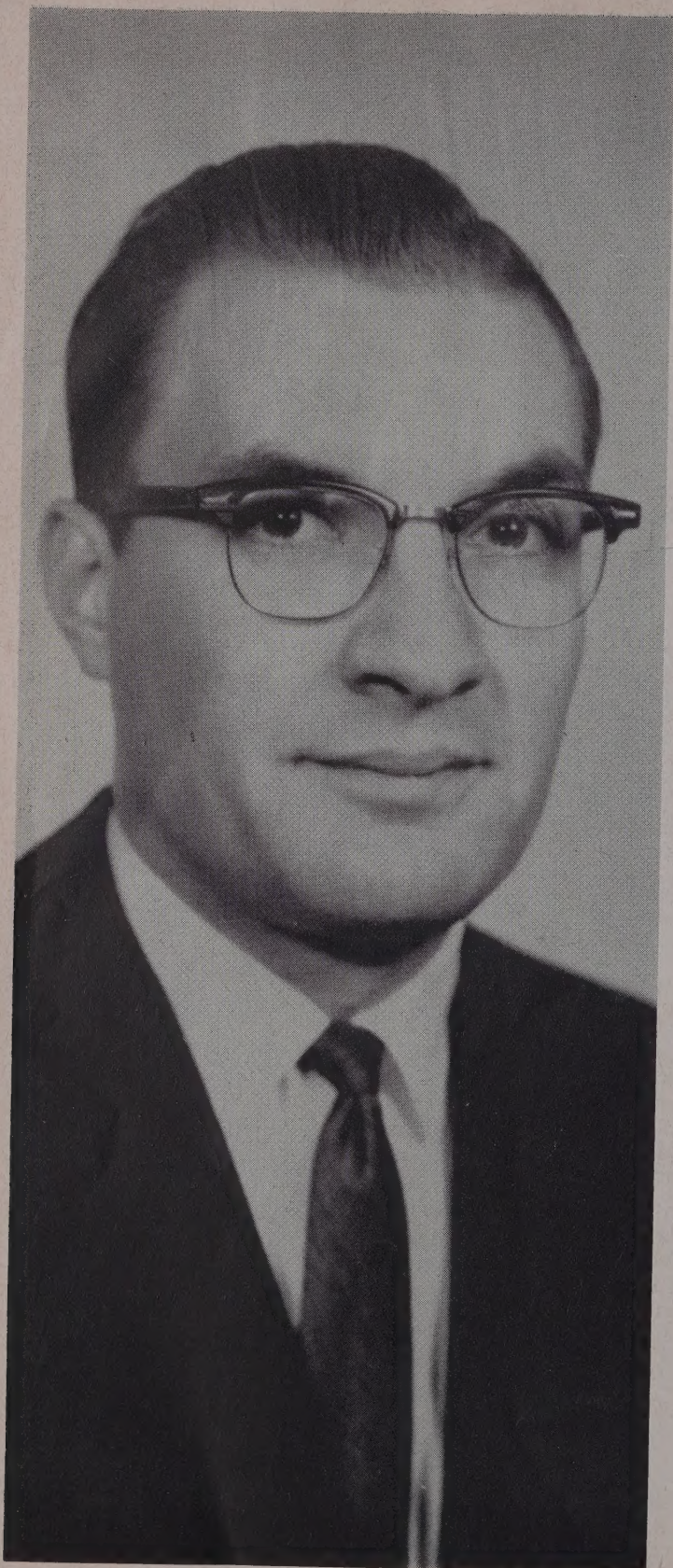
When we determine to give *all* of ourselves into God's keeping and to love

and serve our fellow man, we may still hope for personal blessings. Yet these will seem to us less significant than our commitment to living our faith, doing our best to declare our trust in Christ. Our complete commitment (*all*) makes us faithful and fruitful as evangelists, stewards, praying Christians.

Those who *believe* and *do* will love and serve Christ's Church, since it is His Body among us, offering endless opportunities to accept the responsibilities of Christian witness and evangelism.

With what dignity and honor does Jesus endow those who give *all*, who having *believed*, *do* what they understand He would like to have them do. These "inherit the Kingdom," "inherit everlasting life." Now, inheritance is a gift (not bargained for nor bought) to one who is loved, one worthy of confidence. To such a follower, Christ's promises apply!





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Several generous friends of Christian Endeavor are making plans to "double" any Fifteen Dollar memberships received before February 28.

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